

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02549 101253Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 /067 W

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O P 101210Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9287

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: FORTIETH AND FORTY-FIRST DAYS OF THE KC DRY SEASON
OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2484

1. SUMMARY. ACTIVITY WAS DOWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BUT MEKONG RIVER POSITIONS CONTINUED TO SUFFER ATTACKS BY FIRE AND THE KC DAMAGED A NAVAL CONVOY CAUSING THE DESTRUCTIO OF TWO 155MM HOWITZERS. FANK REPORTED A LINK-UP ON THE EAST BANK ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH AND SOME PROGRESS CLEARING THE ROAD TO THE ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. END SUMMRY.

2. THE KC HIT A NAVAL CONVOY AS IT REACHED DEI DOS ON THE WAY SOUTH TO NEAK LUONG AND SANK A VESSEL CARRYING TWO OF FANK'S FEW 155MM HOWITZERS. THIRTY CREW MEMBERS ARE MISSING. KAF HAS PLANNED AIRSTRIKES TO ENSURE THE CANNONS ARE DESTROYED. FURTHER SOUTH ON THE RIVER, PEAM REANG ISLAND IS STILL UNDER PRESSURE. LATE REPORTS SHOW 49 ENEMY KILLED ON PEANG REANG FEB 8.

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 02549 101253Z

3. FANK REPORTS THAT, ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG'S EAST BANK, THE PARA BRIGADE FINALLY LINKED UP WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 84TH BRIGADE, PINCHING OFF A SALIENT WHICH THE KC OPENED NEW YEAR'S DAY. SOME PROGRESS HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN MADE TOWARD OPENING UP ROUTE 51 TO THE ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL.

4. HEAVY AND CONTINUOUS FIGHTING NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ON ROUTE 5 HAS GROUND DOWN THE 7TH DIVISION. OPERATIONAL STRENGTH FOR THE ENTIRE DIVISION IS ONLY ABOUT 2,000 MEN, WHICH IS JUST UNDER THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF ANY ONE OF THE DIVISION'S THREE COMPONENT BRIGADES. THE ONE AND ONE-HALF BRIGADE EQUIVALENTS REINFORCING THE 7TH COUNT A TOTAL OF 1,200 MEN. THE NEARBY 5TH BRIGADE, WHICH NOW HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PART OF THE SEVENTH'S AREA HAS 900 MEN INCLUDING A NUMBER OF AWOL-PRONE SWEEPINGS FROM CAPITAL CITY HEADQUARTER'S OFFICES. COMMANDERS OF THESE FORCES HAVE SPOKEN GLUMLY ABOUT AMMO SCARCITIES. THEY APPEAR WILLING TO MAKE DO BUT ARE SOMEWHAT DISPIRITED.

5. IN THE PROVINCES, THE KC ATTACKED KOMPONG THOM'S EASTERN PERIMETER, LOSING 12 MEN. PRESSURE HAS EASED SOMEWHAT AT KAMPOT. FANK HAS FLOWN 100 RECRUITS TO REAM TO BE SHIPPED TO REINFORCE KAMPOT.

6. TWENTY ROCKETS HAVE FALLEN ON PHNOM PENH OR IN AND AROUND POCHENTONG KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING FOUR BUT CAUSING LITTLE DAMAGE.
DEAN

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